

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01641 01 OF 02 251603Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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Z O 251520Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 0817

AMEMBASSY LISBON FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1641

EXDIS

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN FROM BRUCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: NATO DISCUSSIONS ON PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS

DEPT ALSO PASS USNMR SHAPE PERSONAL FOR GENERAL SEITH FROM
AMBASSADOR BRUCE

REF: (A) STATE 66711; (B) USNATO 1612; (C) LISBON 1674

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT MARCH 25 MEETING OF NATO PORTUGUESE GROUP, SYG
LUNS FAVORED NATO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIONS TO PORTUGUESE ABOUT THE
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01641 01 OF 02 251603Z

IMPORTANCE OF FREE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY. THE U.K. AMBASSADOR
REPORTED ON HIS LISBON COLLEAGUE'S CALL ON PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES.
FRG CHARGE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF TALKING POINTS FOR GERMAN
APPROACH TO COSTA GOMES. ALL PARTICIPANTS, WITH EXCEPTION OF

FRANCE, FAVORED APPROACHES BY THE EC-NINE BOTH COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY. THE FRG CHARGE NOTED THAT SOME CIRCLES IN BONN THINK IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY TO LINK PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE CONVENING OF STAGE III OF CSCE. AMBASSADOR BRUCE URGED THE ALLIES TO MAKE PROMPT APPROACHES TO THE PORTUGUESE. END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 25 MEETING OF NATO PORTUGUESE GROUP IN SYG'S PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM WAS ATTENDED BY UK AMBASSADOR PECK, WHO HAD RETURNED TO BRUSSELS. GREECE WAS NOT REPRESENTED. OTHER AMBASSADORS AND CHARGES SAME AS AT MARCH 24 MEETING.

2. SYG LUNS OPENED MEETING BY SAYING THE SOCIALISTS IN PORTUGAL MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO RESIST ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS THEIR ACTIVITIES. HE DOES NOT THINK THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS WISH TO PUSH THINGS TOO RAPIDLY AT THIS TIME. SYG CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR NATO COUNTRIES TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF FREE ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY.

3. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR HARTOGH STATED THAT HIS COLLEAGUE IN LISBON HAS SEEN SOARES AND TALKED TO HIM ALONG THE LINES WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE FOLLOWED, WHICH HARTOGH REFERRED TO AS "THE RIGHTS OF MAN".

4. UK AMBASSADOR PECK, JUST RETURNED FROM VACATION, REPORTED THAT THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD SEEN PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ELICIT OTHER THAN GENERALITIES FROM HIM. COSTA GOMES OBSERVED THAT ELECTIONS, AFTER A PERIOD OF ALMOST 50 YEARS WHEN THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HELD, WILL NOT REFLECT THE TRUE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE, AND EMPHASIZED THAT POLITICAL POWER RESIDED IN THE AFM. COSTA GOMES ALSO REMARKED THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS WAS HOSTILE.

5. FRG CHARGE BOSS CIRCULATED COPIES OF FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO BE USED BY THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN LISBON IN AN APPROACH TO COSTA GOMES.

BEGIN TEXT:

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 01641 01 OF 02 251603Z

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FOLLOWED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AFTER 25 APRIL 1974 WITH GREAT ATTENTION, SYMPATHY AND HOPE BECAUSE THEY OPENED FOR THIS FRIENDLY AND ALLIED COUNTRY A WAY WHICH ENABLES IT TO COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH EUROPE AND WHICH IS TO GIVE THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE THEIR LONG-DESIRED FREEDOM. WE ASSUME THAT THIS AIM OF A FREE AND PLURALIST DEMOCRACY HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED BY THE ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT OF 11 MARCH. IN PARTICULAR, WE CONFIDENTLY HOPE THAT THESE EVENTS WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT OUR COOPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE OR PORTUGAL'S PROGRESS TOWARDS CLOSER TIES WITH EUROPE. THE DECLARATIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ON THE CONTINUATION OF ITS ALLIANCE POLICY ARE A SOURCE OF SATISFACTION FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THE FREE

ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUTIVE ASSEMBLY, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE
ON 25 APRIL, WILL NOT BE OBSTRUCTED.

OUR CONCERN IS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR SOLIDARITY AS WELL AS OF THE
WILLINGNESS TO HELP, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, IN THE BUILD-UP OF A
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY ON THE BASIS OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

NOTE B OC/T: NOT PASSED SHAPE.

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 01641 02 OF 02 251617Z

42

ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1641

EXDIS

END TEXT.

6. FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS OPPOSED
TO AN APPROACH BY THE EC-NINE OR EVEN BILATERAL DEMARCHES. WITH
THE EXCEPTION OF FRANCE, ALL PARTICIPANTS FAVORED THE EC-NINE
ENTERING THE FRAY AND ALSO THOUGHT THAT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL
APPROACHES SHOULD BE MADE. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION AS TO HOW
THE ABSTENTION OF THE FRENCH WOULD AFFECT THIS EFFORT.

7 THE SYG SAID HE OPPOSED USING THREATS OF WITHHOLDING
ECONOMIC AID TO BRING PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME.
IN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EXISTING ECONOMIC DETERIORATION IN

THAT COUNTRY, LUNS CONTINUED, PORTUGAL'S LEADERS CAN DRAW
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 01641 02 OF 02 251617Z

THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO HOW THEIR ECONOMY IS BEING
UNDERMINED.

8. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR CATALANO SAID THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST
PARTY IS BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT ENCOURAGING THE OPERATIONS OF
THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

9. FRG CHARGE BOSS SAID SOME CIRCLES IN BONN FEEL STRONGLY
THAT CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION
COULD AFFECT GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO PROCEED TO STAGE III OF
CSCE. THE SYG AND TURKISH AMBASSADOR ERALP EXPRESSED THE
BELIEF THAT AN APPROPRIATE USE OF THE PHASE III OF CSCE IS A
POTENTIALLY VALUABLE CARD IN WESTERN HANDS.

10. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR MENZIES OBSERVED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT
FAVORS SPEAKING TO THE PORTUGUESE EITHER IN OTTAWA OR IN
LISBON. IF SOARES IS REPLACED AND THERE IS A NEW FOREIGN
MINISTER, PERHAPS THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, THE SENIOR NATO
ENVOY IN LISBON, SHOULD ASK THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRIEF THE
NATO AMBASSADORS.

11. AMBASSADOR BRUCE FOLLOWED HIS INSTRUCTIONS (REFA) TO:
(A) URGE THE ALLIES TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN BILATERALLY
TO PORTUGAL.
(B) IF ALLIED VIEWS ARE TO HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON THE
CURRENT SITUATION, THE SOONER THEY ARE CONVEYED THE BETTER.
(C) WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT THE EC-NINE ACT AS A
UNIT, AS WELL AS EACH MEMBER ACTING BILATERALLY, AND THAT SUCH
ACTION BE PROMPT.

12. ONCE AGAIN THE ALLIES MADE KNOWN THEIR KEEN INTEREST IN
WHAT, IF ANY, APPROACHES WE HAD MADE TO THE SOVIETS. BURUCE
ANSWERED THAT THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED
WITH THE USSR, AND THAT WE DO NOT NOW INTEND TO APPROACH THE
USSR ON THIS SUBJECT.

13. BRUCE INFORMED THE GROUP THAT AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI HAS AN
APPOINTMENT TO SEE COSTA GOMES THIS AFTERNOON, AND READ
EXCERPTS FROM EMBASSY LISBON DCM'S CONVERSATION WITH MANUEL
SA MACHADO (REF C), IN WHICH THEY WERE GREATLY INTERESTED.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 01641 02 OF 02 251617Z

14. AT CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE SYG ANNOUNCED HE WOULD
CALL GROUP TOGETHER AGAIN IF AND WHEN DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
SEEM TO WARRANT IT. BRUCE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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